

ELSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday January 17th 2024 at 7.30pm

in

Elsworth Sports Pavilion, Broad End, Elsworth CB23 4JD

PRESENT

Chair Peter Deer (PD)
Councillors Tim Hegan (TH), James Howell (JH), Richard Hyde (RH),
Lawrence Seifert (LS) Margaret Stevenson (MSt), James Witherow (JW)

In attendance Mrs E Sim Parish Clerk (ES)
D.Cllr Mark Howell (MH) from
D Cllr Peter Sandford (PS)
4 Members of the public

2024/1-1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

County Cllr Mandy Smith (MS)
D.Cllr Mark Howell (Late – attending Bourn PC meeting)

2024/1 -1 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Public Participation Forum

A parishioner requested information on permission for construction of a new building on the site of Elm Lodge Meadow Drift . The Clerk advised that this was being questioned with the Greater Cambridge Partnership planning officers.

2024/1 -2 To receive declarations of interest & requests for dispensations.

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None
- 2.2 For declarations of interest received, Councillors to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter at the agenda item prior to discussion. None
- 2.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests
None
- 2.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. None.

2024/1-3 To approve & sign the Minutes of the Council meetings dated 15th November 2023

It was proposed ^(TH, seconded JW) and unanimously **approved** that the Chairman sign the Minutes.

2024/1-4 Reports

- 4.1 Cambridgeshire County Councillor. No report, C. Cllr Smith was not in attendance.
- 4.2. South Cambridgeshire District Councillors
Cllr Peter Sandford reported: -
 - Michael Gove Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has proposed the building of 150,000 new houses in 'Greater Cambridge' to be delivered by a development corporation. District Councillors and Greater Cambridge Planning Service officers are to meet with him for discussions.

Elsworth Parish Council Chairman - Mr Peter Deer

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Elizabeth Sim. Mercia Cottage, Brockley Road Elsworth CB23 4JS
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- A task force is being set up to investigate water sources for large developments.
- The DC's budget for 2024-5 would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee the following day. The proposed increase in the District precept was 2.99%.
- The District Council was proposing to put more money into acquiring houses at market rates, through Ermine Street Housing.
- In response to a question from JW about the continuation of the 4 day working week at SCDC, Cllr Sandford responded that the trial would continue to run through March which would be the end of the twelve month period of the trial.

4.3. Chairman's update.

PD reported on the following

- **Recruitment of PC members.** An article in the Elsworth Times encouraging residents to consider co-option onto the Parish Council and volunteering more generally had received no response.
- **Future management of Fardell's Lane Reserve.** JH, JW, PD and Paul Harding had met to discuss this following the resignation of Louise Hanzi as Volunteer Warden. PH and LH had drafted a plan of action (Appendix A), and PH was willing to continue advising on works to be carried out. It was proposed and **agreed** that two new benches would be purchased to encourage use of the reserve. JH agreed to be the contact for the reserve and organise the work days for the volunteers. He would advise the Clerk of the names of the current volunteers.

The Clerk would sound out the new maintenance contractor about possible help with maintenance that PH had advised needed a contractor.

Equipment that is used in the reserve would be stored in the PC's shed on the sports field car park.

Although there had been no response to the Chair's article in the ET, it was agreed that the need for volunteers to do work in the reserve be readvertised.

4.4. Clerk's Update

Highways

Highway maintenance issues were still of major concern. Some that were reported many months ago had still to be dealt with, although a few road potholes which had caused damage to several residents' cars were deemed urgent and repaired. Flooding had caused major problems and the Community Flood Group was working with the County Council to resolve this. County Highways had been requested to grit the road from Brockley Road to Cambourne. Equipment ordered from County Highways for gritting footpaths had not arrived.

Village maintenance

Two companies were contacted. Site visits by both were undertaken and the maintenance requirements viewed and explained by the Clerk and the Chair. A contractor started in November. Footpaths had been sided out, paths weeded, gullies and grips cleared in Brook Street and Brockley Road, vegetation encroaching on and obscuring roadside signage and around the post and phone

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boxes cleared, the best kept village sign cleaned and the rose pruned. All grit bins were checked and drain gratings cleared of weeds in Brockley Road and Smith Street. Repairs required to the village noticeboard would be underway shortly as materials were on order. Painting play area equipment, posts and rails near the brook, the bus shelter and phone box would be undertaken in the summer months. The Village sign flowerbed had been weeded by a resident.

Signage

Designs for the signage for the play area and Fardell's Lane Reserve were reviewed and suggestions for amendments passed on to the signage company. New drafts of modified signs were expected.

PC Policies

Revised policies that were anticipated to be completed by NALC in November had still not been released.

Defibrillator

A fault with the defibrillator had been identified. It was removed and sent away for repairs and a loan model is to be sent.

Civil Parking Enforcement. Civil parking enforcement had been live in South Cambridgeshire since December 2023. From 1st February, tickets, with fines attached, would be issued by Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. Parish Councils are able to provide feedback information on restrictions being contravened, time, date and occurrence. PC would look into whether the enforcement powers extend to parking on pavements.

Change to Annual Parish Meeting Date

The Annual Parish Meeting time and date has been changed to 6:30pm on Wednesday May 15th 2024.

Correspondence received

A letter received from the Junior Travel Ambassadors at Elsworth C of E School requested a zebra crossing on Smith Street.

PC members had previously met the County Councillor and LHI officer on site to discuss the possibility and been advised that such a scheme would be prohibitively expensive. Councillors sympathised with the request for additional safety measures to enable children to cross roads safely and alleviate the traffic congestion in Broad End and encouraged the school and the JTA to lead on this issue and consider other forms of implementing safety measures.

20mph funding bid

Bidding had opened again and it was noted that, if the proposal for a zebra crossing on Smith Street for those going to and from Avenue Business Park could not be pursued, the school wanted to see a 20 mph limit on Smith Street to make it safer for pupils and carers parking at the ABP and crossing the road to reach the school. Councillors agreed that a bid for funding should be considered and agreed that TH should work with the head of the school to draft an application.

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2024/1-5 Finance

5.1. To approve payment of accounts.

The following payments were approved unanimously (Prop LS Sec JW)

01/11	Clerk's remuneration October 2023	676.35
20/11	HP Inc UK Ltd Computer equipment	5.49
22/11	Society of Local Council Clerks Subscription	139.00
22/11	ADC Drainage General Village Maintenance	300.00
22/11	Netwise UK Web site hosting	396.00
01/12	Clerk's remuneration November 2023	676.35
04/12	Neil Kenny Fardell's Lane Maintenance	85.00
04/12	Neil Kenny General Village Maintenance	200.00
04/12	Donation to British Legion Remembrance Day Wreath	20.00
05/12	Pendrill Publications Elsworth Times	75.00
08/12	Elsworth Sports Club Grant for grass cutting Sports field	100.00
09/12	Elsworth Sports Club Grant for grass cutting Sports field	900.00
10/12	Andrew Pope Delivery of Elsworth Times	30.00
14/12	Reimbursement to RFO Christmas Lights switch on	26.85
18/12	HP Inc UK Ltd Computer equipment	11.49
23/12	Andrew Pope LHI consultation Leaflet Delivery	30.00

5.2. Receipts received. Noted.

02/11/2023	Santander Bus Savings	18.98
30/11/2023	Nat West Bus Res	27.27
02/12/2023	Santander Bus Savings	18.39
29/12/2023	Nat West Bus Reserve	23.76

5.3. Precept request for the financial year 2024-2025

The current financial position had been circulated to all councillors. The Clerk outlined areas of expenditure that were likely to need to be funded to a greater degree in the coming financial year, in particular village maintenance.

Councillors considered this and in particular the Community Flood Group's report on the need for funding for flood prevention. The flood plan produced by Peter Ward would be put on the PC's web site. Thanks were expressed to Philip Sleightholme, who had indicated that he was standing down from the group, for the hard work he had put into the group.

PD Proposed "Elsworth Parish Council requests a precept of £25,000.00 (twenty five thousand Pounds) for the financial year 2024 -2025". Seconded JW. **Agreed Unanimously.**

2024/1-6 Village matters

6.1. LHI application for 2024-2025.

The Chairman advised that he had submitted the application for the installation of yellow lines on areas of Boxworth Road. Comments submitted by residents to the survey of opinions on the proposed submission had been taken into

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consideration. The great majority of the respondents were in favour of the proposals.

- 6.2. **Assets of Community Value** . To consider the renewal of listing for
- A. The Poacher Public House 1 Brockley Road CB23 4JS
 - B. The George and Dragon Public House 41 Boxworth Road CB23 4JQ
- Councillors **agreed unanimously** to request the renewal of the listing for both the Poacher and the George and Dragon.

2024/1-8 Planning

8.1. Applications determined/closed by SCDC

- 21/05616/CONDE5 Church Lane Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB23 4HU
Discharge Condition in Full
- 23/1421/TTCA9 Boxworth Road Elsworth Cambridgeshire CB23 4JQ *Have No Objection To*

Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2024.

March 20 th	Parish Council Meeting
May 15 th	Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting
July 17 th	Parish Council Meeting
September 18 th	Parish Council Meeting
November 20 th	Parish Council Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:29

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____